

# the chronicle

**Guests mull over festivities at mayor's parlour**

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**Council workers clean up at national awards**

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**Hairdresser says thanks by raising money for hospital**

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## Festive pupils take the Yellow Brick Road . . .

THESE happy youngsters enjoyed a festive trip down the Yellow Brick Road when they performed a Christmas play with a difference.

They're from Cotwall End Primary School, based on Cotwall End Road in Sedgley, which played host to A Christmas Wizard of Oz.

Every single school pupil was involved in the production, which ran for three days last week.

Key Stage 1 manager Gemma Simmons, a big fan of the original Wizard of Oz film and musical, penned the play.

She said: "The children and staff have worked extremely hard during the past few weeks learning lines, class songs and dances and classic songs from the film like Somewhere over the Rainbow and Follow the Yellow Brick Road.

"All three shows were really well attended by parents and every pupil did themselves proud."

As a reward for their hard work, children from Years 1 and 2 went to Wyre Forest, Bewdley, for a day of activities.



## Social club folds as numbers drop

A LONG-RUNNING Dudley social club has closed down after a drop in membership and trade. Brierley Hill Labour Club in Pearson Street is on sale for £325,000.

The club, which was founded in the 1930s, went into administration after starting to lose thousands of pounds when business plummeted.

It was shut and put into administration after profits dropped. Begbies Traynor administrators have taken control of the property and are trying to sell it.

There have been a number of viewings but no offers yet.

Labour councillor for Brierley Hill, Margaret Wilson, said: "It's a sad loss to the area – it's sad to see anything like that go.

"I suppose these things just happen with time, though. I think there was a lack of people using it, as is the case

with a lot of these clubs nowadays."

The club was often packed during election results nights and was used for Labour party meetings up until the late 1990s.

In recent years shoppers were allowed to use the car park but this failed to bring in extra trade.

The club had been used for regular live music events but business fell off in recent years and membership dropped.

Linda Clayton, a manager at Begbies Traynor, said the club had been run by three trustees who got into financial difficulties. They fell behind repaying a Marston's brewery loan.

"The brewery have a charge over the property in exchange for money loaned to the club," she said.

She added any proceeds from a sale would go towards paying off the brewery's loan.

# FOUNDER OF HOSPICE DIES

## Councillor so sorry in row over race joke

A DUDLEY Conservative councillor has suspended himself from the party after an email sent to council members as a joke sparked a racism row.

Halesowen Councillor Ken Turner last week apologised for the "error" and said he would attend a cultural awareness course.

The Hayley Green and Cradley South member has been referred to Dudley Council's standards committee by Labour Councillor Tim Crumpton, who branded the joke "disgusting".

Councillor Turner circulated an email on December 2 on his council account to all councillors containing what was called a joke about a Somali immigrant.

It described it as "maybe the best joke of the year".

It talks of a Somali immigrant in London who asks a series of people if they are British before being told by an African lady all the British are probably "at

work". Councillor Turner said he would not step down. "It was a joke that I thought would maybe raise a titter but when I heard that someone may have taken offence to it I instantly apologised."

"It was an error and I realise that. I will let the procedures take their course and I am going to attend a diversity awareness course."

He said he had been under pressure because members of his family were receiving hospital treatment and he had also been devoting up to 12 hours a day to his public duties.

### Disgrace

"All I would say is I hope the opposition have a happy Christmas," he said.

Councillor Crumpton said: "This is a racist joke and it is disgusting. For a senior councillor to have sent out something like this goes beyond the pale."

"With all that happened in Dudley over the past few years with the EDL, this is a disgrace."

## Blast rocks town centre

AN EXPLOSION caused chaos in Dudley town centre when a manhole cover was hurled through the air, smashing two shop windows.

It led to the closure of part of a busy shopping street. Two workers were treated for shock after the underground explosion on Tuesday.

Dozens of workers turned up to find a 300-yard section of the High Street between Stone Street and Stafford Street, cordoned off by police.

An electrical fault in an underground sub-station caused the blast which blew off a manhole cover outside WH Smith, smashing two of the shop's windows.

Witnesses reported seeing flames leap from the manhole with plumes of smoke filling the area at about 7.30am. The

road closure caused long queues of traffic which stretched along Stafford Street, The Inhedge and Vicar Street, while delays were also caused on the Dudley Southern By-Pass.

Jane Walsh, aged 35, who was walking down the High Street when the explosion happened, said: "I heard this huge bang and breaking glass."

"I turned round and saw these flames coming out of the manhole. It was really scary."

West Midlands Ambulance Service treated two people at the scene for shock. Investigations were carried out into the electrical supply for the High Street to make sure it is safe.

Santander bank worker Mark Terry said: "It's quite a shock to turn up for work and see all this going on."

A charity pioneer and Dudley alderman whose determined nature influenced people and organisations in Stourbridge has died.

Jock Poyner, MBE, was a former mayor of Stourbridge, secretary of Stourbridge FC and joint-founder of Mary Stevens Hospice.

He passed away at Russells Hall Hospital last week aged 89.

Edinburgh-born Mr Poyner was described as being "very approachable, pleasant and positive thinking".

His son David said: "He was very much a loving family man who gave me and my brother (Jonathan) so much encouragement."

"He always gave a lot of pleasure to other people through what he did."

As well as being heavily involved in football, education, charity and politics, Mr Poyner was a Second World War pilot who flew in Lancaster bombing operations.

After the war he played football semi-professionally for West Bromwich Albion and Birmingham City,

By Tim Spiers

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before playing for Stourbridge and Brierley Hill. He became secretary of Stourbridge FC until 1973.

He taught at Hill Street School, Stourbridge, and Crabbe Street School, Lye, and was headteacher at Tenterfields Primary School, Halesowen, until his retirement in 1982.

In 1968 he became the youngest mayor in Stourbridge's history and served two terms until 1970. The Pedmore resident was made an honorary alderman by Dudley Council and was awarded the MBE in 1997.

The longest-lasting of his legacies will be Mary Stevens Hospice, which he helped to establish in 1985. "I never got an answer out of dad as to why he set up the hospice," 53-year-old David, who lives in Cheshire, added.

"Someone once called him Mr Stourbridge for all he'd done for the town and I think that about sums him up."

After jointly forming the hospice, Mr Poyner became company secretary and sat on the board until 2002.

Gwynne Dellis, chairman of the board of trustees at Mary Stevens, said: "Bearing in mind his influential standing in the area, to have devoted that much time to the hospice will make us eternally grateful."

"You couldn't have found a person more devoted to the cause which he was partly responsible for developing."

"He was a very impressive man; cooperative, helpful, respected and revered and very much appreciated for his kindness, consideration and thoughtfulness. Jock was a splendid chap."

Councillor Peter Miller, mayor of Dudley, added: "Jock was a wonderful man who did a great deal for Stourbridge and spent a lifetime helping people. He was made an honorary alderman of the borough due to his outstanding services to Stourbridge and he will be sadly missed."

Mr Poyner's first wife, Harvane Guest, died in May 1969. He leaves a widow, Dr Brenda Clarke, two sons, three step children, 14 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. His funeral will be on Tuesday (21) at St Mary's Church, Oldswinford, at 11.30am.

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## Banned dog club gets new centre

A DOG training club kicked out of a Black Country community centre in a row over germs has found a new home.

Stourbridge and District Canine Society was told to leave Cradley Community Centre in Colley Lane over health and safety fears, which club members branded "backwards".

Cradley Community Association was concerned the dogs might leave germs that could pose a health risk to children using the centre.

The group said last week it had found a new home and would be starting meetings in February but refused to reveal the location for the time being.

It said it was within a few miles of the community centre and members already knew its location.

The group said it wanted to become "more established" in its new home before letting it become widely known.

Members were stunned after the association announced they were no longer allowed to use the building despite being loyal to the venue for nearly 30 years.

Committee member Chris Smith said: "We have been able to find another home so we will be able to continue regular meetings from February."

"We have only had to change the day from Thursday to Tuesday."

# Zoo lead thief finds himself behind bars

## Mayir mulls over festivities



The mayor of Dudley, Councillor Peter Miller with mayoress Hilary Miller and guests at this year's mulled wine and mince pies charity event

## Go-ahead for £1.2m mosque

A £1.2 million mosque and community centre will be built in the Brierley Hill after councillors gave the go-ahead. The proposals for Rizvia Mosque, in Trinity Street, were called "a great facility for the whole community".

Dudley Council's development control committee chiefs praised the scheme on Monday. The decision to grant planning permission to the Muslim Welfare Association comes three years after a parking dispute forced leaders to withdraw plans. The existing mosque will be demolished and replaced by a two-storey building.

MULLED wine and mince pies were on the menu when the mayor of Dudley, Councillor Peter Miller, hosted a Christmas fundraising event.

Dudley Council staff and members of the public visited the mayor's parlour on Friday for the charity afternoon, which also include a raffle and tombola. In total £645.35 was raised for the mayor's charities, the Thomas Pocklington Trust which helps provide housing and support for people with sight loss, Acorns Children's Hospice and the Alzheimer's Society.

Councillor Miller said: "Thank you to everyone who came along to the parlour, it was great to spread season's greetings and raise much needed money for my chosen charities."

"This is a wonderful early Christmas present to these very worthwhile charities."

A JOBLESS man has been jailed for 10 weeks for stealing lead from Dudley Zoo buildings and a church near Wolverhampton. Aaron Safe admitted taking the metal from an 1800s stone building and toilet block at Dudley Zoo and the roof of All Saints Church, Trysull.

He was sentenced to 10 weeks in prison for the church theft and nine weeks for the taking of lead from Dudley Zoo in Castle Hill. The sentences will run concurrently. The father-of-one pleaded guilty to the charges at a previous hearing.

Safe, aged 28, of Padarn Close, Sedgley, was one of two men who had been seen on the roof of the church building, in School Road, on September 2 by a member of the public. Cannock magistrates heard. He was seen stripping lead flashing from the roof and rolling it up to make it easier to transport.

Police were called and Safe identified as one of the men on the roof.

He was also one of four men who had climbed on the roof of a building at Dudley Zoo on October 31 and stripped away lead, magistrates were told.

Police were called after their vehicle was spotted on a car park near the zoo. Three men had been arrested at the scene and Safe later on the same day.

Mrs Sonia Durrant-Clarke, prosecuting, said significant damage had been caused to the roof of the zoo buildings and meant they were no longer weather proof.

"The amount of the lead taken from the zoo was worth around £300 but the damage left ran into thousands of pounds," she said.

Mr Steve Hamblett, defending, said Safe had fallen in with a bad crowd after losing his job. "He had debts and in pursuit of a quick fix to get money got involved in this."

## Old Danilo cinema sold for £150,000

A FORMER Black Country cinema which had George Formby among its VIP guests on the opening night has been sold at auction, it has emerged.

The property in Dudley Road, Brierley Hill, which has also been used as a nightclub, has been empty for several years. Auctioneers Cottons revealed they sold the property for £150,000. It is not known who bought the 1,200-seat former Danilo cinema.

## Neighbour heard raid taking place

RAIDERS tried to break into a Dudley grocery store by knocking down a brick wall, a court heard.

Police were called when a neighbour heard "loud blows to the wall and glass smashing" coming from the Londis shop in Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill, said Indira Sharma, prosecuting.

A traffic control camera was trained towards the shop and captured two men running away as police arrived. A number of bricks had been taken from a wall at the back of the shop, said Miss Sharma.

A cordless drill, hammer and screwdriver were found at the scene, which police believed had been used to break through the wall at 2.30am on Wednesday of last week.

Police arrested two men they found in a nearby empty building, Miss Sharma added.

James Whitlock, aged 25, of Essex, admitted attempted burglary when he appeared at Dudley Magistrates Court on Thursday.

He will be sentenced at Wolverhampton Crown Court on January 6, and was remanded in custody.



Front left, winners Maya Clarke, Alice Stanley-Haga and Georgina Rollett, with back, illustrator Geoff Tristram and Philip Chapman of Wall James Chapel Solicitors

## Pupils' cards give boost to hospice

CREATIVE children have shown their artistic flair by designing charity Christmas cards to raise money for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice.

A competition was organised by solicitors firm Wall James Chapel, which invited schools across the borough to design their own cards.

The winners were Maya D'Arcy Clarke, aged six, from Dawley Brook Primary School, Kingswinford, Georgina Rollett, aged eight, and Alice Stanley Haga, aged 12, both from Elmfield School, Stour-

bridge. The cards are now available to buy from Wall James Chapel in Hagley Road in Stourbridge, priced £5 for 10 cards.

Proceeds from the cards will go to the Mary Stevens Hospice.

Head of fundraising at the hospice Janet Jones, said: "I have been really impressed with the standard of designs that have come in from all the schools who participated and congratulate the pupils and their teachers from the winning schools."

"It is a lovely idea to raise much-needed funds for the hospice."

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## Trees treat as church greets festive visitors



Liz Williams and son Jonathan get ready for the Christmas Tree Festival at All Saints Parish Church

A CHURCH in Sedgley is inviting residents to join in their Christmas Tree Festival which runs until this Saturday.

Twenty-five Christmas trees have been delivered to All Saints' Parish Church for the festival. Many businesses have sponsored trees, which have been put up in all parts of the church.

One tree will be reserved for those wishing to remember a loved one by attaching their name.

Martin Jones, one of the festival organisers, said: "It will be a great opportunity for everyone in Sedgley to get into the Christmas spirit."

"The festival is free to get in but visitors are encouraged to donate to the Biblelands charity if they wish."

Another attraction at the event is an exhibition of drawings by 92-year-old Ron Baker of scenes from old Sedgley, seen alongside photos of the same locations as they look today.

Memories of local Sedgley residents have been collected at a 'remembrance session' and a second one is due on Saturday. The church in Vicar Street is open from 11am-3pm.

## Council advice via television

PEOPLE can get in touch with Dudley Council and report issues via their television. Sky subscribers can go to the Community Channel on 539 and access Dudley Council's Digi TV site through the red button. The service available to residents across the borough with digital television or access to the internet. It provides free, 24-hour communication with the council and it can be used to report problems such as litter, criminal damage, missed bin collections and housing repairs and request services.

# Business takes charge of Black Country future

COUNCILS and business leaders across the Black Country have been given the go-ahead to set up a Local Enterprise Partnership to replace the £300 million-a-year quango Advantage West Midlands. The partnership will bring councils and a board of business people together to ensure the private sector takes the lead in bidding for investment in the region's economy.

The move will allow the Black Country to bid for a share of a £1 billion regional growth fund. Monday's announcement follows lengthy negotiations between the council leaders of Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Dudley and Walsall and business chiefs.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said the bid had been successful. He invited the group to progress to the next stage and set up their boards and get to work in driving local economic growth.

Councillor Paddy Bradley, Wolverhampton City Council's Conservative regeneration chief, said: "We now need to sit down and talk about positive steps we can take to create jobs. But there must be plans put in place, this LEP cannot be just a talking shop."

Stewart Towse, of Smethwick-based Hadley Industries, has been appointed chairman.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles, who on Monday also unveiled the Government's Localism Bill that aims to hand back power to local people by granting them new powers to take over community services, hailed the Black Country LEP as "a vital new addition" to the growing network of LEPs "to create a fairer and more balanced economy driven by private sector strength".

## Foundry

John McDonough, chief executive of Wolverhampton construction giant Carilion, Tim Hair, of Walsall castings foundry Chamberlin & Hill, Jason Wouhra, director of West Bromwich-based East End Foods, and Peter Mathews of Black Country Metals, the Stourbridge scrap metals company, are all on the board.

The four Black Country council leaders are also to sit on the LEP.

## Focus on winter magical scenes

STUNNING winter scenes taken by photographers across the Dudley borough are on display on the council's website.

Images of landmarks and locations in the snow and ice have been gathered from Dudley Council's flickr group.

More than 200 images have been added to the winter photos of Dudley borough flickr group on [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk) from more than 140 local photographers.

They include snowy snaps and icy images of Himley Hall, Bumble Hole nature reserve, Dudley Castle and Mary Stevens Park.

The pictures are being used as a rolling display on the banners on all the council's web pages after being transferred from the social networking site.

Councillor Les Jones,

deputy leader of Dudley Council, said: "We have always celebrated local landmarks by using pictures of them at the top of all our internet pages. The winter has brought with it some stunning scenery captured by really talented local photographers."

"We wanted to showcase that by using their work as part of the council's website."

The council has been using flickr to celebrate and images from across the borough. It includes thousands of pictures shared by people from around the borough, as well as groups such as winter pictures, the Mayor of Dudley and Dudley borough glass contributed by the council.

People can join a number of groups on the council's flickr page and contribute pictures to it.

## Peter tort us all we know say briefs



Former lecturer Peter Smith, centre, with ex-students from Wolverhampton Polytechnic

A DOZEN legal eagles – including one from Dubai, another from Jersey and a third from Scotland – swooped in for a reunion in Dudley, more than three decades after leaving Wolverhampton Polytechnic.

The lawyers, who all graduated in 1977, met up at The Park Inn, Woodsetton, to celebrate the 60th birthday of lecturer Peter Smith, who now lives in the Highlands.

They then went on to the Lamp Tavern, Dudley, and Ma Pardo's, in Netherton, finishing off with a meal at the French Hen, Clent, near Stourbridge. Among the 12 were Colin Barr, who now works in Dubai, and Lewis Buckley, who is based in Jersey.

"We have a very close kinship which has lasted through the years," said Kevin Drew, of Sedgley, now a property lawyer with Turner Cary in West Bromwich.

"We used to go every year for real ale and a meal at Clent and we met up again in 2007 for the 30th anniversary of our graduation. But we decided to come together again this year for Peter's 60th birthday."

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the chronicle

## Council joy over valuation

SANDWELL Council is worth around £30 million more than it was thought. An audit of assets by KPMG showed council housing was worth £17.3m more than it was originally valued.

The council's shares in Birmingham Airport meanwhile increased the value of its assets by £12.4m. Its stake stood at £20.1m of the airport's £327m value. The audit meanwhile showed £21.3m worth of Government grants had been counted as expenditure instead of income. Councilor Steve Eling, Sandwell's finance boss, said:

"The two big, key components are assessing the value of the council's housing stock and its shareholding in Birmingham Airport.

"The audit does not raise our budget or give us any extra money, it's rather an issue of valuations. The main thing for the public is external auditors have told us we have strong financial management, strong governance and good value for money."

# Tribute to stalwart of village theatre group

## Smokey in hunt for new home

TWO kittens are on the lookout for loving homes after being handed in to a vet's.

A 12-week-old tabby and white kitten was found wandering in Springfield Grove, Sedgley.

Staff at the St George's Vet's in St George's Parage, Wolverhampton, where the kitten has been cared for since November 29, have named her Tabatha.

They are also caring for another new arrival, a six-month-old male cat who narrowly escaped being run over on Birmingham New Road on Monday.

He has been named Smokey because of his grey coat.

Michelle Cox, a receptionist at the practice, said: "They are two lovely cats. The little girl is quite relaxed while the boy is very, very active."

"They would both make marvellous pets." Anybody who can help is urged to call the practice on 01902 425262.



Michelle Cox, from St George's Vets, with cat Smokey

A CHARTERED accountant and stalwart of amateur theatre in the Midlands has died aged 68.

Tributes were paid to "gentle giant" Geoffrey Alliband who spent more than 15 years treading the boards with Kinver Light Operatic Society.

Born in Darby End, Netherton, he attended the former Sir Gilbert Cloughton School, Blowers Green Road, Dudley, where he was head boy in 1958. He qualified as a chartered accountant and worked at Dudley firm Stephenson, Nock & Higgs, and later Deloitte in Birmingham.

Mr Alliband, of Heather Drive, Kinver, took semi-retirement 10 years ago but continued to work for a small number of clients.

## Referee

He was a member of the Kinver operatic society for 20 years, taking part in a variety of productions and was also a president of Brierley Hill Rotary Club.

A keen sportsman, he enjoyed playing at Enville Golf Club and was also a football referee in the Dudley and Cradley Heath League.

The Wolves fan also founded the Edgecliff Eagles football team, which later became Kinver Colts, in 1980.

Mr Alliband, who died on November 29, leaves wife Barbara, children Adrian, Helen, and David, and grandchildren Charlotte, Ashley, Ernie and Ben.

Adrian aged, 43, said: "He was a gentle giant, very proud of his Black Country roots. He was very well known as he had clients all over the Black Country and Birmingham."

Mr Alliband's funeral was held at St Peter's Church in Kinver.

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# Adult care performing well inspectors report

## Council workers clean up at awards

THE 66 people who keep Dudley's streets clean have swept up a national award for being the best at their job – for the second year running.

Dudley Council's street cleansing team has been judged as the top performer, offering the best value to taxpayers in the country, by the national awards body, the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE).

The team which sweeps roads, cleans up graffiti and helps remove fly-tipping, also won the accolade last year and in 2007.

Over the last six years the team of 60 manual workers and six office-based staff, has always been named in the top four performers in the country.

Councillor Angus Adams, cabinet member for transportation, said: "This is absolutely fantastic news and we are very proud that the team has again won."

"This award should ensure Dudley residents know that they are receiving a superior service."



Manager Dave Wesson and sweeper driver John Woodward celebrate their third national win with other members of Dudley's street cleansing team

ADULT social care in Dudley has been praised after the council improved quality of life and services to help people maintain their personal dignity.

A Care Quality Commission report on the adult social care department said it was "performing well" in health and well-being and freedom from discrimination or harassment categories, and demonstrated better quality of life – up from "performing well" to "performing excellently".

Last year, the council was rated as "adequate" in maintaining personal dignity, but this year performed "well".

### Befriending

Dudley's cabinet member for adult care, Councillor Lesley Faulkner, said: "The staff work really hard to do all they can for people who need social care and we get a lot of thanks for that."

The Care Quality Commission inspectors said Dudley people now have more choice over support they want, are given better value for money, are helped to retain independence and staying at home for as long as possible.

They found improvements in waiting times for major home adaptations. Areas to improve include increasing pace of change in creating a more personalised adult social care service centred around choice and control.

Suggestions from the inspectors include developing the market to welcome smaller social care businesses, and expanding the befriending services to reduce loneliness for older people.

### Festival theme days on offer at libraries

LIBRARIES in Dudley will be offering up some festive-themed holiday activities this month. There will be free storytelling and craft activities based on the theme of pantomimes. Activities will be held next Tuesday at Stourbridge Library and Halesowen Library from 11am, and Sedgley Library from 2.30pm and on December 30 from 2pm to 3pm at Brierley Hill Library.

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Patricia Ashton with son Ian

The 51-year-old former care assistant had battled through cancer and was in remission when she was rushed into Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital with breathing difficul-

Mrs Ashton, who lived with her other son, Craig, 30, had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lym-

"The most gutting part is that she never knew she was going to be a nan and never saw her grandchildren."

"The Castle Hill and zoo sites are major

Midlands in February 2008. Council chiefs are looking at how to generate funding for the scheme. The bingo hall, formerly Dudley Hippodrome, closed last September. The building's rear may be redeveloped to open up the view of Dudley Castle.

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Home Property

## thechronicle

### Stylist Joanne says thank you by raising £350

CANCER nurses will be handed almost £350 as a thank you from a Dudley hairdresser for all their help as she battles the disease.

Joanne Smith, aged 47, works at JP's Hairdressers in Wrens Nest Road, Dudley, and was diagnosed with brain and lung cancer in July.

She organised a tabletop sale at the Wrens Nest Community Centre in Summer Road, Dudley, on Saturday, with help of her daughter Danielle and centre manager Paula Goodyear.

They raised £340 for the Macmillan Cancer Support nurses based at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton.

#### Hundreds

"We were selling anything and everything – it all came from donations," said Danielle, aged 20, of Gough Road, Coseley.

"We had hundreds of people come through the door, it was really successful. The money will be donated to help the hospital buy a new machine that locates veins."

She said they were organising several raffles and other tabletop sales over the next two weeks with the aim of raising £1,000 before December 21.

"We just wanted to say thank you, and give something back," Miss Smith added.



Cancer sufferer Joanne Smith, front, who organised a tabletop sale to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, with volunteers Kim Malpass, aged 27 and Sheila Cash, 71, Holly Graham, seven, and fundraiser Paula Goodyear, 41

### Police seize drugs during crackdown

HUNDREDS of cannabis plants were seized, buses searched and four people charged in the first week of a Dudley police clamp down on drug crimes.

Police found around 550 cannabis plants, 25 wraps of cocaine and related drug equipment as part of Operation Advent, in which 24 warrants will be executed in the run-up to Christmas.

Six arrests have already been made. The latest warrants were executed at houses in Marigold Crescent and Ivy Road, Wrens Nest, last Monday.

A 38-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of a controlled drug after bags of cannabis were found in Marigold Crescent. Two men were arrested in Ivy Road, and cannabis seized.

An 18-year-old man was charged with possession of a controlled drug and was due to appear before Dudley Magistrates Court on Tuesday. A 27-year-old man was arrested at the address and received a police caution for possession of a controlled drug.

The operation was launched with a raid in Masters Lane, Halesowen, on December 1 where more than 500 cannabis plants were seized. There have been raids in Udall Road, Coseley, Love Lane, Stourbridge, and Highview Street, Kates Hill.

# 30,000 patients just what doctor ordered

## Unearthing creatures of the past

YOUNGSTERS have been taken back in time to when Dinosaurs roamed the Earth with events held at a museum.

Staff at Dudley Museum & Art Gallery, in St James's Road, have launched a programme of talks for primary school children in the borough.

Events were based around the museum's permanent dinosaur exhibition, which has proved a hit with young and old visitors.

Youngsters learned how to be a dinosaur with one talk looking at the evolution of the great animals and their eventual extinction.

The second focuses on the life of 19th century fossil hunter Mary Anning. She was just a girl when she discovered the remains of the creature which would become known to later generations as the ichthyosaur.



Exhibitions officer Adrian Durkin launches the new school programme at Dudley Museum and Art Gallery

## Noise barriers shouted down

PLANS to create a barrier of plants to block noise from a Stourbridge park could be abandoned if nearby residents agree.

It has been established that having the park open to view means greater security.

Fencing was installed near the children's play area at King George V Park, Wordsley, earlier this year to replace a partly-collapsed wall.

Dudley Council had planned to plant fast-growing vegetation near the new fencing to

provide a natural barrier to prevent noise reaching homes in Lawnswood Road.

But the plan is now being reconsidered as the security of the park and play area is improved by people being able to see in.

Around 20 residents in Lawnswood Road and Bells Lane have been asked for their views.

If they say noise is a problem, the plants will be put in place. But if noise is not found to be a problem then no further work will be carried out.

## Club gives advice to job seekers

JOBLESS people in Dudley have been getting help at a series of job clubs, the last of which is at Kent Street Centre, Gornal, from 10am until 12.30pm next Tuesday.

Dudley Council has organised the meetings to provide advice, guidance and information.

Councillor Lesley Faulkner, cabinet member for adult and community services, said: "This is an excellent initiative." Anyone interested should contact Judith Ashford on 01384 812933.

## Site earmarked by housing firm

A £4 MILLION housing development is set to be built on a Dudley estate.

WM Housing wants permission for 22 homes and a 14-bed sheltered accommodation unit in Middlepark Road.

Midland Heart is building a £4.5 million retirement village a short distance from the proposed development.

WM Housing, of Bromsgrove, wants to build 15 houses, seven bungalows and the sheltered accommodation.

Kat La Tzsar, area new business manager

for WM Housing, said: "The site has been earmarked for housing by Dudley Council."

A report by agent David Wint, Quattro Design Architects Ltd, says: "The scheme has been designed to provide affordable and supported housing for the area."

The £16 million Midland Heart scheme in Middlepark Road will have 132 apartments and will provide a range of care for the over-55s. Work is expected to be completed next summer.



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thechronicle

THE WAY I SEE IT

# Maintenance allowance helps students fulfil their aspirations

ON Monday I joined students at Dudley College to hear their concerns about the Conservative's decision to scrap the Educational Maintenance Allowance.

The last government introduced the scheme in 2004 to help youngsters stay on at school or college and 4,521 young people in Dudley depend on the payments to help with basics to help them study.

They get £10, £20 or £30 depending on their parents income to help pay for books and travel. If they don't attend, they don't get the money. It makes a real difference in an area like ours and four out of five students at Dudley College qualify.

And it's really important for the future of our area because we have to make education and training Dudley's number one priority because it is the only way we'll attract the new industries and new jobs on which our prosperity in the future will depend.

The Conservative and their Liberal Democrat allies decided to axe the EMA in the Spending Review last month – despite promises by Nick Clegg before the election that the payments would be safe.

I want to see all young people staying on at school, going to college, getting an apprenticeship or doing some form of training while at work. That's why Labour introduced EMA, and axing it could mean thousands of students failing to reach their full potential.

It shows again how the government is completely out of touch with ordinary families in areas like Dudley and it's another example of policies that will prevent people fulfilling their aspirations and climbing as far as their hard work and talents will allow.

## MEETING DUDLEY COLLEGE STUDENTS

### AHEAD OF TUITION FEE VOTE

Last week parliament voted on proposals to treble tuition fees for students – making them the highest of any public university system in the industrialised world.

On the day of the vote I met students from Dudley College, who were in Parliament to lobby local MP's ahead of the vote.

I think the violence we saw on the streets of London was a disgrace, but the youngsters from Dudley I met were hardworking and ambitious and concerned



**Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin takes the stand in our weekly Chronicle column which gives our local representatives the chance to air their views on issues that matter**

about their future. They told me how their fears were not just how they would afford to go into the higher education but also how their younger brothers and sisters will also.

At the end of their meeting I promised the students I would vote against the Government because their plans are not necessary, not fair, and not good for higher education.

Such high fees are not necessary. The Government are only pushing through this hike because they have chosen to slash funding for university teaching by 80% – when other public services are being cut much less. Labour would not make such big cuts to Higher Education teaching grants.

The government's decision to shift the burden of funding higher education onto students is driven by ideology and not economic necessity. The need to get the deficit down does not justify a long term change in higher education funding which will be bad for universities and not save any public money.

Graduates will be forced to pay the whole cost of most degrees (to replace the cut in funding), instead of sharing the costs with the state. As a result, graduates will pay much more overall, and pay back for up to 30 years.

This rise in fees is also bad for Higher Education. England's world class university system has been built on public investment and trust in the professional

academic leadership of universities. If the government's proposals go through, this will be replaced by a market in higher education in which many students will be put off university and forced to choose the cheapest course rather than the one which is best for them.

I believe that universities should remain public institutions, receiving significant public funding. The Coalition's plans undermine this important principle.

## PETITIONING CAMERON WITH STUDENTS FROM ELLOWES HALL

Last week I also joined youngsters from Ellowes Hall Sports College and hundreds more from schools across the country as they arrived at Parliament to hand in a petition to the Prime Minister.

The petition had over 500,000 signatures against the Government's decision to remove £162 million of funding from the Youth Sport Trust and School Sports Partnerships.

I think David Cameron and Michael Gove's decision to withdraw government funding for the Youth Sport Trust and abolish School Sports Partnerships is outrageous. It's a complete disgrace that whilst British athletes were in Delhi in October winning medals for Britain and inspiring youngsters to take part in sport, David Cameron's coalition was drawing up plans to slash the support for the next generation of sporting stars.

Primary schools are likely to be hit the hardest, and I think the ongoing effect this will have on school sport will be devastating.

I, like the students from Ellowes Hall, want David Cameron to look again at his proposals and think long and hard about the effect this will have on youngsters in towns like Dudley.

The programmes they are about to destroy aren't just about success on the pitch, in the pool or the gym or on the track, because youth sport is also the best way of keeping youngsters fit, healthy and out of trouble.

David Cameron might not value sport, but parents know it teaches kids crucial lessons about discipline and teamwork, that hard work and training bring results, and that they learn how to win and how to handle defeat.

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## the chronicle

### Folk tale is festive show

PUPILS at a Halesowen school have performed a Christmas production with a difference.

Youngsters from Olive Hill Primary School staged the Russian folk tale Baboushka.

The play tells the story of Baboushka, an elderly woman who lives alone.

She puts up the three wise men for a night at her home while they stop off from their journey following the North Star to see the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. Though the wise men set off without her the next day, Baboushka attempts to catch them and see the newborn child for herself.

Teacher Karen Geraghty said the play was chosen as it puts a different perspective on the Christmas story.

She added: "We thought it was nice to have the traditional element of Christmas but told in another way."

The 90 year three and four pupils spent two weeks practising their lines before the show, Mrs Geraghty said.



Olive Hill Primary pupils with, front, Abigail Adams, as Baboushka, and Danyal Khan as Baboushka's husband Boris, both aged eight, ready for their performance

### Better deal for job-loss workers

REDUNDANCY payments for term-time workers at Dudley Council will rise as it updates policy ahead of expected job cuts.

Changes affect employees who work in schools and other areas of the council during school time only. They will get a bigger slice of their annual pay if they are made redundant.

A report on the council website states that until now, workers were paid a regular monthly salary, spreading out the year by dividing their annual salary by 52.

A landmark employment tribunal in 2002 stated that was just for "administrative convenience" and it was only fair for employees' annual salary to be divided by the number of weeks they actually work.

It means redundancy pay will rise because it will be calculated on the number of weeks worked rather than on smaller salary instalments.

The ruling said: "It seems just that their redundancy payments should be calculated on the basis of weeks actually worked and not on the basis of a notional 52-week calculation, which takes into account weeks they did not work and for which they were not paid to work."

## Buses leave elderly struggling to hospital

### Pals stage fundraising show

TWO teenage sisters helped raise more than £550 for charity with a fundraising evening starring them and their friends.

Cydon and Reagan Shepherd, aged 14 and 13, organised the show after they heard about three-year-old Lewis McKenzie-Farnell's battle with kidney cancer, and decided to help.

They recruited friends Matt Pittaway, aged 15, Billie Jeavons, 14, Tia Dhami, 12, Tom Withers, aged nine, Katie Teitge, 13, and Megan Fisher, aged 15, to join in.

It was at Beacon Centre for the Blind, Wolverhampton Road East, Sedgley, on Saturday night for friends and family and residents. It raised £200 for the centre and £366 for Lewis.

The girls' grandmother Sue Steadman, aged 56, said the pair live near Lewis and his family in Westfield Road, Sedgley.

Lewis's mother Fiona O'Connor "was overwhelmed that the kids had done all that for her little boy," Mrs Steadman added.



The Shepherd sisters, Cydon, and Reagan and friends at the Christmas show

ELDERLY people and families in Coseley are struggling to get to hospital appointments because there are no direct bus routes, it has been claimed.

Residents in the area have to catch two buses to reach both Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley and New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton. Ward councillor Susan Ridley raised the issue at a Dudley Council cabinet meeting but was told there were limited funds for the authority to set up a bus service.

She said: "It is really difficult for some people. Lots have been complaining about it. If someone is going to hospital, it is for a reason, so they are usually too infirm to walk very far to a bus stop, or even get two buses. This needs addressing."

Councillor Ridley said Coseley had recently lost the 582 bus route running through Wallbrook to Dudley. So residents now have to walk to Birmingham New Road, to catch the 126 to Dudley bus station, and then get the 246 to Russells Hall. To reach New Cross, a two-bus journey via Wolverhampton city centre or Bilston could take nearly an hour.

Councillor Ridley raised the issue at the meeting in response to the council's new Health Inequalities Strategy. The strategy states the authority will "create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities" by improving access to transport.

Councillor Angus Adams, cabinet member for transportation, said bus routes to the hospitals had been withdrawn in recent years as they were often half empty. He added: "Certain services can, where possible, be subsidised through Centro but if they aren't used enough then it's a problem."

## Call to ban school parking

PARKING bans should be introduced around schools in Dudley at peak periods to encourage families to walk, a council chief has said.

The suggestion was made as Dudley Council tries to reduce the number of children being driven to school - despite appointing an "adviser" to tackle the problem in the summer.

Dudley Councillor Adrian Turner, cabinet member for personnel, legal and

property, said parking should be outlawed within three quarters of a mile of schools.

He said the laws should be enforced for an hour in the morning and at home time in the afternoon.

### Persuasion

"This is the only way we are going to stop people taking their children to school in a car," he said.

The council launched a campaign in May to encourage children to walk, cycle or use public transport.

An adviser was appointed to help schools write travel plans.

But a report to a cabinet meeting last week claimed that 34 per cent of children were driven to school regularly in 2009.

The target for this year is 33 per cent. Councillor Susan Ridley said schools needed "more persuasion" to develop travel plans.

She said: "A scheme where a group of children are walked to school and pick some others up on the way would be good."







# Sunday TV

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## Choice BBC1 BBC2 ITV1 Channel 4 Channel 5 Digital



### SPORTS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

BBC1, 7pm

Wherever this show is broadcast, fans know that Christmas is just around the corner – but who will be celebrating the festive season with a shiny new trophy on the mantelpiece as well as a turkey in the oven? In the running (and on the punt) for the main award are the likes of Jessica Ennis, Tim Daley, AP McCoy and Graeme McDowell, and expect to see reports about serious sporting events from the past 12 months, such as the European Ryder Cup team's triumph over the US, this year's Wimbledon and England's flop during the World Cup in South Africa.

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.00** Match of the Day. **7.30** The Andrew Marr Show. **8.00** Fern Britton Meets Sir Cliff Richard. **10.00** Country Tracks. **10.30** BBC News. **10.55** Wild Weather of the Midlands. **11.25** EastEnders. **11.55** Drop Zone. **12.25** Drop Zone. **1.25** Lifford. **1.55** Songs of Praise. **2.30** BBC News. **3.00** Regional News. **3.30** Jimmy's Food Factory. **4.00**

**6.00** Countryfile. **7.00** The Year. The team experiences winter on North Uist in the Outer Hebrides, where Matt Baker learns a traditional Scottish dance and John Craven tries his hand at bartering for goods.

**7.00** Sports Personality of the Year. Sue Barker, Gary Lineker and Jake Humphrey present from Birmingham's LG Arena. Includes a review of the year's highlights, before the 5th recipient of the award is announced. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**7.00** The Apprentice. The two finalists launch a new high-quality alcohol beverage before Alan Sugar reveals who he has chosen as the winner of this year's competition. Last in the series.

**11.00** BBC News. **11.30** FLEET: Butterfly on a Yacht. (2007) Premiere. Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan. **11.55** Sign Zone. **12.00** The Zone. **12.30** Tim Back Time – The High Street. **1.30** BBC News.

**6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** The Nation's Favourite Christmas Fool. **12.30** Flog It. **1.00** Escape to the Country. **1.30** One Man and His Dog. **2.30** Live Olympic International Horse Show. **3.00** Coast. **3.30** Film: Big Jake. (1971) Western, starring John Wayne.

**7.00** Mother's Day. The arrival of spring sees the difficult harvest, a pony trek and the birth of new lambs – as well as a pleasant surprise for Ruth in the run-up to Mother's Day.

**7.00** The Holy Grail: Elmer Fudd's Quest. A King and Dave Myers find out what mothers are cooking for their families over the festive period, including roast goose and coddled oiled lamb deemed over-birdy.

**7.00** The Holy Fives of Michael Myers. The actor, best known for his role in One Foot in the Gate and Merlin, reminisces about his career on screen.

**10.00** Entertaining the Day 2. Includes highlights of Chelsea v Manchester United.

**11.00** Battle of Britain: Skyline 4. A stand-up show by the outlandish comedian from his Stripped tour, showcasing the current band of humour that has brought him success on both sides of the Atlantic.

**12.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. **1.00** Medium. **1.30** Film: Mad About the Vampire. (1970)

**6.00** QTV. **7.00** The Fluffy Club. **7.30** Toonahli. **8.30** Coronation Street. **11.55** This Morning. **12.00** ITV News. **12.30** Weather. **1.00** Coronation Street. **3.00** 30 Years. **3.30** Film: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. (1983) Comedy, starring Chevy Chase. **4.30** Film: The Mummy. (1999) Action adventure, starring Brendan Fraser.

**6.00** Regional Programmes. **6.15** ITV News. **6.30** FLEET: Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. (2007) The young wizard unites his fellow pupils into a secret army to battle the evil Lord Voldemort.

**7.00** The Secret of the Olden. A young wizard unites his fellow pupils into a secret army to battle the evil Lord Voldemort.

**7.00** David S. Cronenberg on the Orient Express. The Point star reflects the famous train through Europe, exploring its rich history and discovering some of the real-life drama the Orient Express has witnessed over the years.

**10.00** ITV News. **10.15** FLEET: The Year. (2007) Premiere. A 13-year-old girl accuses her sister's lover of a crime he did not commit, with tragic repercussions.

**11.00** The Red Housewife of New Jersey. **11.30** American Football Live. **11.55** American Football v Green Bay Packers. 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## Friday

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**BBC2** 6:00 CBeebies, 6:30 CBeebies, 7:00 CBBC, 8:35 Animal Park: Wild in Africa. (R) 8:55 Climbing Great Buildings: 100 Feet, 9:15 The World's Most Amazing Places: Suburbs, 9:35 105 Film: *She's Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (1948) 2:45 Maccabi Dan Givon from Gibraltar, 5:05 Celebrity Eggheads, 6:15 Dad's Army, 6:35 Carolin from King's, 7:00 Education Film, 8:00 *White and Will* comes to the 100th Anniversary of the 1918-1919 Influenza Pandemic, 8:35 *Queen's Gambit*, 9:00 *World's Most Extraordinary Places*, 9:35 *World's Most Extraordinary Places*, 10:05 The Goodies and the Beachies, (R) 1:00 Medium, (R) 2:30 Close.

**TV-14** 6:00 Daybreak, 6:30 London, 8:25 This Morning, Christmas Crackers  
Flinx Cakes (2009) Family comedy; cast: Christina Ricci, Jesse McCartney, 10.9  
Regional News; Weather, 12:55 Flint Miracle of 3481 Street (1994), 3:00 Flint The Queen (2008), 3:55 Countdown to Christmas, 5:55 The Santa Place with John Sergeant, 6:50 ITV News; Weather, 7:00 Emmerdale, 7:30 Coronation Street, 8:00 You're Been Framed Christmas, (R) 8:30 Coronation Street, 9:00 Paul O'Grady's Christmas...  
6:00 ITV News at Ten; Weather, 6:15 Flint The Holiday (2008), 12:45 Christmas Time Angels; (R) 12:50 ITV News Headline, 1:00 Flint Dead Cash (1988)

[illegible]

**Channel Five** 6.00 *Millicrinal* 10.00  
*Adventure with Nigel Marven* 10.30 *Panquak*  
 (2002) *Adventure*, starring Jet Li 2.25 *King of the Hill* 3.00 *The Week End Update* 3.20 *9.55 ER* (F)  
*5.58 One Tree Hill*

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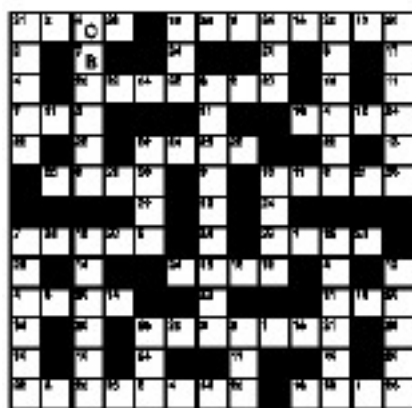
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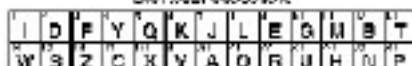


**Code word**

Each number in the gsc represents a differentiation of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet used. Use the given letter(s) to the word of the book, and to start you off.



LAST HOOKS SOLUTION



### Double Crossword

Choose either quick or acrylic dyes - both  
 11 Nov 2014 QMC

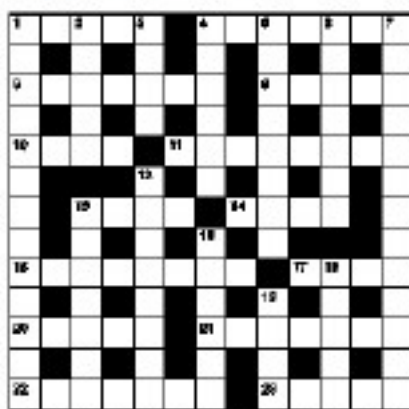
Cryptic Clues

## Abstract

- [illegible]

**Figure 10**

1. I have a question about  
the use of the infinitive  
form (question) (3)
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[illegible]

## Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column and every row and each of the 33 blocks contain all the digits from 1 to 9.



LAST WEEK'S		REPUTATION	
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10

Read the question carefully with a partner. Sort the letters within each circle into the subject to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



100



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**CHRONICLE** MOTORING

# Supermini deal which will beat the VAT rise



Deals will be available on Perodua Myvi models such as the Sport, above, until the end of December

PERODUA has announced a special offer aimed at customers looking to beat the VAT increase and buy a new car before the end of the year.

The firm will include a free accessory pack worth over £350 to anyone buying a new Myvi, Myvi Sport or Myvi SE during December.

On a Myvi or Myvi SE, the free accessory pack consists of remote central locking with two remotes and side mouldings with 'Myvi' motifs.

On the Myvi Sport it consists of remote central locking with two remotes and a chrome tailgate trim.

The offer is available from authorised Perodua dealers and

there are no hidden catches – the accessories will be provided and fitted free of charge.

In addition, the Malaysian firm is extending its £1,000 'swapping' deal until the end of the year. This means the car continues to be available from as little as £6,799 on the road.

## Integrated

The spacious Myvi supermini has proved a big hit in the UK and features air conditioning, four electric windows, electric door mirrors, power steering and an integrated radio/CD player as standard.

The Myvi SE is aimed at the customer looking for a more luxurious interior and features dark

grey leather seats.

The Myvi Sport boasts a stylish body kit consisting of front, side and rear skirts including imitation quad exhausts. Colour matched side mouldings with chrome 'Myvi' motifs and chrome door handles add the finishing touches to the vehicle and alloy wheels complete the sporty image.

Inside, carbon fibre finishes are fitted to the instrument panel and door panel switch surround continuing the sporty look throughout the car's interior.

Both automatic and manual versions of the Myvi have achieved Euro 5 compliance which means they can continue to be sold from 2011 onwards.

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# sport

## Welcome victory, if a touch unconvincing

THREE WEEKS of inactivity culminated in a welcome, if not entirely convincing, league win for Kidderminster Carolians.

The visitors had played the previous week and were the sharper side in the opening stages.

But Earlsdon missed an

**Kidderminster C 32  
Earlsdon 19**

early penalty opportunity and the home side gradually began to work themselves back into the match, writes *Martin Easton*.

Midway through the half full-back Andy McLellan

came into the line to put winger Nick Martin over for the opening score.

KCs were were undone when the visitors scored a breakaway try and conversion. Five minutes later another Wilkinson burst won a penalty in front of the posts which McLellan

knocked over for Carolians to retake the lead.

Good support then saw second row Chris Baldwin cross for a try before Martin seized on a loose ball to score under the posts, McLellan adding the extras for a 20-7 halftime lead.

Carolians absorbed pres-

sure before Wilkinson powered over from a lineout.

Earlsdon responded with a try for their left wing but Chris Baldwin then muscled over for a try, converted by McLellan, to establish a 32-12 lead although the visitors had the last word.

## Youngsters rewarded for sports excellence

YOUNG sporting stars from Dudley have been recognised in a glittering awards ceremony honouring their achievements over the past year.

The eighth annual Awards for Sporting Excellence event saw 35 youngsters from 13 borough schools receive their award from champion Olympic rower Debbie Flood at the ceremony at the Saltwells Centre, Netherton.

Among winners was 17-year-old Dudley College student and hammer-thrower Chad Rhodes, who received the special award for outstanding achievement for the second time.

The event also rewards pupils who give something back to sport by coaching other.

In this category Adam Barnett, 17, who also studies at Dudley College, won the Leadership and Contribution award for foot-

### The full list of winners

**Abbey Smith, Dudley College;** Step into Sport Programme

**Adam Barnett, Dudley College;** Football & Generic Sports with Special Educational Needs Groups

**Adam Galls, Ellowes Hall School;** Sports Leadership

**Sophie Bishop, Dudley College;** Step in Sport Programme

**Francesca Tibbetts, Summerhill School;** Dance

**Grace Nicholls, Coseley School;** Swimming

**Sophie Harbach, Windsor High School;** Tennis

**Lauren Clay, Windsor High School;** Cricket

**Ben Hadley, Dudley College;** Association Football

**Christopher Knight, Dudley College;** Football

**Ryan Greenwood, Kingswinford**

**School;** Football

**Dan Brown, Ridgewood High School;** Football

**Oliver Westbury, Ellowes Hall School;** Cricket

**Jitesh Jivan Patel, Old Swinford Hospital School;** Cricket

**Edward Taylor, Old Swinford Hospital School;** Cricket

**Owen Williams, Old Swinford Hospital School;** Rugby Union

**Samuel Smith, Old Swinford Hospital School;** Rugby Union

**Dan Wale, Summerhill School;** Cricket

**Emma Baker, Tenterfields Primary School;** Swimming

**James Bragg, Crestwood School;** Football

**Lauren Sanders, Ellowes Hall School;** Swimming

**Aimee Sanders, Ellowes Hall**

**School;** Swimming

**Megan Willetts, Windsor High School;** Swimming

**Sam Johnson, Windsor High School;** Swimming

**Samantha Meese, Kingswinford School;** Golf

**Florence Govier, Peter's Hill Primary School;** Gymnastics

**Bradley Hill, Windsor High School;** Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

**Luke Timbrell, Coseley School;** Ten Pin Bowling

**Jessica Pegg, High Arca School;** Netball

**Chad Rhodes, Dudley College Athletics;** Hammer Throwing

**Amy Steventon, Kingswinford School;** Badminton

**Phillips Humphrey, Edgecliff High School;** Rounders

work, leadership skills and putting in hard work to achieve something.

"What I do is normal – it's what I do – but for these youngsters it is very special.

"I work with young offenders and I've seen for myself how sport teaches them interpersonal and life skills."

Martin Duffield, strategic manager for PE in School Sport, who organised the awards, said the evening had been a popular part of the schools' calendar since 2002.

"We're very proud of what we do in Dudley. The importance of saying 'well done' and of sharing your achievements can clearly be seen here tonight."

Winning pupils were from Tenterfields Primary, Crestwood School, Ridgewood High, Old Swinford Hospital, Peter's Hill Primary, Kingswinford School, Windsor High, Edgecliff High, Dudley College, Summerhill School, High Arca School, Ellowes Hall School and Coseley School.

## Heathens offer cut-price deal

DUDLEY Heathens are offering fans cut-price season tickets in time for Christmas.

The club, aiming to stage 12 to 16 home meetings next season, have announced adult prices of £110 and concessions £60 if paid for by December 31.

From January 1, prices will be £120 adults and £70 concessions.

Club chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We believe these prices represent excellent value for money and they are a great idea for a Christmas present for any Heathens fan."

Details and how to buy online are available on website [www.dudleyheathens.co/admission.php](http://www.dudleyheathens.co/admission.php)

Admission prices for the new season have also been set at £10 adults (the same as last season), £6 concessions and £2 children.

The former Cradley club's opening night for the 2011 season as Tuesday April 12 at Mommore Green against the USA touring team.

Heathens have confirmed Ashley Morris as their first rider signing and will talk to Tom Perry.

# DK BOUNCE BACK FROM THE BREAK

AN ENFORCED three-week break due to the weather did Dudley Kingswinford no harm as they returned to league action with yet another victory.

Stratford-upon-Avon became DK's 12th consecutive victims of a blistering run of victories which kept up their three-point advantage over Sutton Coldfield at the top of Midlands 1 West.

DK looked threatening from the start but rustiness saw them lose possession twice early on when close to the home line.

They had two lucky escapes at the other end when Stefan Shillingford's defensive kick was charged down, only for the Stratford prop to lack the pace to reach it near the goal line, before full-back Mike Plant missed a straightforward penalty. Matt Farrington made the hosts pay for their profligacy when he went over in the corner for an unconverted try, writes *Peter Stinton*.

Flo Vialan was yellow-carded for Stratford and DK took advantage to extend their lead with a fine Shillingford try following a 30-metre dash, which was converted by Gareth Bown for 12-0.

**Stratford-upon-Avon 12 Dudley Kingswinford 43**

Everything looked to be going swimmingly but the visitors conceded a curious try on 31 minutes when a kick rebounded off a stray boot and bounced kindly over the DK line for Dave Pritchard to touch down.

Parity was soon restored as Luke Greenwood made it 17-5 at the break when he was driven over.

Stratford were putting up a good fight but it was DK who went further ahead with another fine try after 50 minutes.

A superb break

through the middle from Simon Fletcher gave Shillingford room on the outside and there was no stopping him from 10 metres out.

For the next 20 minutes or so DK played some of their best rugby of the game, but contrived to lose the ball or be penalised on several occasions when it looked easier to score.

Stratford's most profitable tactic, pick and drive, proved effective and in a rare attack they cut the lead to 24-12 when flanker Chris Cathcart scored a converted try.

DK regained their focus and hit the home side with three tries in the last six minutes.

### Fumbled

On 74 minutes a straightforward three-quarter move out to Farrington saw the winger hack on to the line where a Stratford defender fumbled the ball for him to touch down.

With a minute to go a good break from Tui Asi Pito and some fancy footwork from Bown made the gap for replacement lock Ed Parry to thunder in for DK's sixth try of the game.

And with Stratford out for the count Jamie Ramsey was driven over from a penalty catch and drive lineout to make the final score 43-12.

Weather permitting DK will take on Sutton Coldfield in a first-verse-second clash at Heathbrook on Saturday (2pm). DK next play on January 8.



Dudley K centre Stefan Shillingford shows a clean pair of heels on his way to the line for the home side. Picture: Peter Stinton

## Saxons' revival rocks the title hopefuls

STOURBRIDGE secured an impressive victory at title hopefuls Cambridge, overwhelming a 15-3 deficit.

Tries from Tom Jarvis, Tom Richardson and Cameron Brown paved the way with Ali Bressington kicking 12 points. It was the Saxons winger who opened the scoring with a third-minute penalty only for Ben Spencer to reply for the home side moments later, writes *David Lawrence*.

**Cambridge 23  
Stourbridge Saxons 27**

The remainder of the opening period belonged to Cambridge and a brace of tries took them clear at the break.

South African winger Jaco du Toit got the first. The Cambridge pack drove to within 20 metres of the Saxons line before the ball was swung out to the left for the pace ace to cut inside and sprint to the

line, Spencer kicking the extras.

Flanker Darren Fox saw red on 26 minutes, the Cambridge skipper taking a swing at one of the Stourbridge forwards.

But the dismissal galvanised the home side and they stretched their lead five minutes before the break when Spencer gathered the ball from a line-out before weaving his way to the corner. Too many errors and a lack

of cohesion had marred the Saxons' play in the first half but the second period began well with Richardson springing away from a scrum before the ball was worked to James Rodley and finally to Jarvis who dived in, Bressington kicking the conversion.

Spencer and Bressington traded penalties before Cambridge prop Mark George dived in to hand the home side a 10-point lead.

But two tries in five frenetic minutes put the Saxons in control. The first came in the wake of a huge hit on home centre Alex Dodge by Rupert Cooper. Richardson gathered the loose ball and started between the posts. Moments later Brown who crossed line wide on the right, Bressington putting over the kicks.

A late yellow card for Charlie Hayter did little to dampen Stourbridge's joy.

## It's Rock solid for winners Stour

**Stourbridge 2  
Brackley 1**

A STRONG second-half performance saw Stourbridge overturn a half-time deficit to run out deserving winners.

The home side fell behind after just four minutes when a long-range drive from Jamie Gould took a deflection to wrong-foot Stourbridge keeper Lewis Solly.

Brackley continued to shade the early stages and went close again on 24 minutes as Owen Story fed Tom Winters who turned and hit a low shot past the post.

On 39 minutes Ryan Rowe was tripped just outside the penalty box and Billingham saw his 20-yard free-kick beat Nathan Thackeray but bounce down off the crossbar, Leon Broadhurst heading the loose ball against the outside of the post.

The home side's endeavours finally paid off in the 65th minute. A deep left-wing corner from Drake led to Nathan Bennett getting in a header that was handled on the line by former Kidderminster player Marcus Bignot.

He was sent off and the Glasshoys were awarded a penalty. Billingham's spot-kick was parried by Thackeray but the midfielder slotted home the rebound.

Stourbridge swept forward again to take the lead in the 69th minute.

Craddock provided a low diagonal ball into the box where Rock got ahead of his marker to steer his shot home.

## Clarke and Co take the spoils

A SELL-OUT crowd watched fighters from across the district take on kickboxing rivals from across the UK at Kidderminster Town Hall.

Members of Wispers Kickboxing Gym claimed the spoils at the Kidderminster versus Vikki Ransom on points.

Fan-favourite and Bewdley Town FC player Craig Webb made his debut a winning one

against a Redditch opponent in the men's light-heavyweight division.

Webb came out swinging and won on a first round stoppage.

The main event featured Mike 'Morphy' Clarke against Lincoln-based Tom Smart. Clarke took the honours on points.

Dominic Hill, aged 15, beat his opponent from Halesowen on points. Among the other winners was Ryan Gifford, 11, with a points success against another local fighter in an all-Kidderminster match-up.

The Dudley Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, on Thursday, December 16, 2010.



# the chronicle

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ONLY **£36.99** PER WEEK

... FREE ...  
3 year Service Plan Package  
3 services/30,000 miles  
Excludes VAT, license and road fund



Aveo: The practical partner for real life.

The Chevrolet range is designed for the real world.

At very realistic prices. Standard on all models:

- POWER STEERING • DUAL AIR BAGS • ABS BRAKING SYSTEM
- CENTRAL LOCKING • TINTED GLASS • CD PLAYER



CHEVROLET

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- Bridge Street, Wednesbury WS10 0AH
  - West St, Stafford Rd (A449), Wolverhampton WV10 6HT
- Browse online: [www.brindleychevrolet.co.uk](http://www.brindleychevrolet.co.uk)

Telephone: 08430 221154

Telephone: 08430 221064

Calls charged at local rate.

[enquiries.chevrolet@brindley.biz](mailto:enquiries.chevrolet@brindley.biz)

[enquiries@brindleychevrolet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@brindleychevrolet.co.uk)



OFFICIAL CHEVROLET FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES AVEO RANGE: URBAN 32.8-39.2, EXTRA URBAN 55.4-61.4, COMBINED 44.1-51.4, CO2 132-152 G/KM.

Chevrolet Aveo 1.2 5 door LS: cash price: £9617.40, £0.00 deposit, amount to finance: £9617.40, interest charges: £0.00, 250 monthly payments: £16.02, weekly payment: £16.99, total amount payable: £9617.40, APR 0% typical, metallic paint and Road Fund License extra. Offer excludes Chevrolet's 3 year promise. While stocks last. Picture for illustration only. We are licensed credit brokers. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Written details upon request.



# BRINDLEY CHEVROLET

UNUSED '60 PLATE



## AVEO



## 1.2 XS



SPECIAL EDITION

3 door  
17" Alloys  
Sports Graphics

## AVEO 1.2 XS 3dr

# 0%

APR typical

## OVER 5YRS

# NO

## DEPOSIT

ONLY

# £35.99

PER WEEK

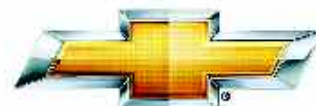


5dr 1.2 LS Model available at extra cost

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[enquiries@brindleychevrolet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@brindleychevrolet.co.uk)



OFFICIAL CHEVROLET FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES AVEO RANGE: URBAN 32.8-39.2, EXTRA URBAN 55.4-61.4, COMBINED 44.3-51.4, CO2 132-152 G/KM.  
Chevrolet Aveo 1.2 XS 3dr 35, cash price £15620, 4000 deposit, amount to finance: £15620, interest charges: 4000, full monthly payments: £35.99, weekly equivalent: £5.99, total amount payable: £15620, APR 0% typical, exclude purchase price. Offer subject to credit check & your personal credit status. While stocks last. Vehicles must be registered by 29 September 2010. Finance deal available only to UK residents with UK bank accounts. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. See dealer for full details.



# BRINDLEY CHEVROLET

UNUSED '60 PLATE



CAPTIVA



2.0 VCDi LT



## CAPTIVA 2.0 VCDi LT 5 SEAT FWD

FROM **£15,990** <sup>OTR\*</sup>

Includes: 12 month road tax, Fog lamps, Roof rails, 17" alloys, CD mp3, Half leather, Cruise control, Climate control, Electronic stability control (ex.), Cat 1 alarm

**SAVE £6,355**  
AGAINST LIST PRICE



**Captiva:** A unique mix  
the versatility of an  
SUV and the style and  
practicality of a family car

The Chevrolet range is designed for the real world.

At very realistic prices. Standard on all models:

- POWER STEERING • DUAL AIR BAGS • ABS BRAKING SYSTEM
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OFFICIAL CHEVROLET FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES CAPTIVA RANGE (MPC): URBAN 23.5-32.1, EXTRA-URBAN 38.7-45.6, COMBINED 31.7-39.2, CO2 191-225 G/KM.

Chevrolet Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT RRP £22,345, Sale price £15,990, Total saving £6,355. \*Netalic print £400 extra. Offer excludes Chevrolet 5 year promise. While stocks last. Figures for illustration only. We are licensed creditbrokers. Prices supersede all previous offers and are correct at time of going to press.



# BRINDLEY CHEVROLET

UNUSED '60 PLATE



SPARK



1.0 PLUS



**Spark:** Innovative design and a spacious interior in an all-new 5 door, 5 seat city car.

## SPARK 1.0 PLUS

**0%** APR typical  
OVER 5YRS

**NO** DEPOSIT

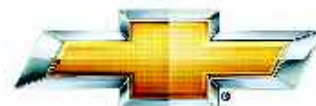
ONLY  
**£32<sup>.29</sup>**  
PER WEEK



The Chevrolet range is designed for the real world.

At very realistic prices. Standard on all models:

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- CENTRAL LOCKING • TINTED GLASS • CD PLAYER



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[enquiries@brindleychevrolet.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@brindleychevrolet.co.uk)



OFFICIAL CHEVROLET FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES SPARK 1.0 (MPC): URBAN 42.8, EXTRA URBAN 67.3, COMBINED 55.4 (CO2 119 G/KM)

Chevrolet spark 1.0 11 cash price: £8395, £0 deposit, amount to finance: £8395, interest charges: £0.00, 36 monthly payments: £119.94, weekly payment: £32.29, total amount payable: £8395.00, APR 0% typical, metallic paint extra. Picture for illustration only. Offer excludes Chevrolet's year promise. While stocks last. We are licensed credit brokers. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Written details upon request.



